

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, February 7, 2021

10:30 A.M.

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT #297 (v. 4)

### In Christ Called to Baptize 297

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace  
2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,  
3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach  
4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.  
a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.  
the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.  
for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,  
Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.  
By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise  
E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.  
One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.  
in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.  
In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

Do all things for the sake of the gospel.

**So may we share in the blessings of God.**

Let us worship the Lord!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

**Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be light that shines in the world. Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\* HYMN 645**

**645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur-mur stilled:  
 all is right:  
 cho - sen band:  
 take your part:

to God all praise and glo - ry!

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

We fool ourselves if we think that our ways are hidden from God. Therefore let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of God our maker.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

**God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is. Your understanding is beyond measure. We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. In your compassion, forgive us, for we place our hope in your steadfast love.**

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

### **PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

Praise the Lord! Our God heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds. God takes pleasure in those who place their trust in God's grace. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* THE RESPONSE #582**

# 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, † with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
F B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, † with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, † with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

## \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones, either by calling, texting, or honking if you are outside!)*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

## ANTHEM

The Old Rugged Cross *(Bernard, arr. Cook, piano arrangement)*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ron Stamboly

Holy God, speak to us what has been told from the beginning, your Word that is the foundation of the world. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.

- <sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.
- <sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- <sup>7</sup> Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.
- <sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow on the hills.
- <sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food,  
and to the young ravens when they cry.
- <sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- <sup>11</sup> but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.
- <sup>20</sup> Praise the Lord!

#### **Isaiah 40:21-31**

- <sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- <sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.
- <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 The Lord is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
 He does not faint or grow weary;  
 his understanding is unsearchable.  
 29 He gives power to the faint,  
 and strengthens the powerless.  
 30 Even youths will faint and be weary,  
 and the young will fall exhausted;  
 31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
 they shall run and not be weary,  
 they shall walk and not faint.

**THE MESSAGE**

**There Is No Equal**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #331**

**331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand**

*(optional)*

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y  
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the  
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.  
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:  
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.  
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, Of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, The only Son of God,  
Eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, Begotten, not made,  
Of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,  
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
And became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again In accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son Is worshiped and glorified,  
Who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE OFFERING**

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

**\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #633 (refrain only)**

**Praise Ye the Lord 633**  
(Psalm 150)

The musical score is for the refrain of 'Praise Ye the Lord' (Psalm 150). It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the word 'Refrain' and ends with 'Fine'. The lyrics are: 'Praise ye the Lord, Hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-ery-bod-y praise the Lord.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with chords in the left hand. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: D, G D, Em, D/A, A7 D.

## \*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

We sing to you, God, with thanksgiving, making melody to you with our praise. Use these gifts to spread your gospel near and far, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## \*HYMN #505

# The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing 505

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum-pets sound; the an - gels sing; the feast is  
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; O taste the  
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heaven are o - pen wide,  
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heaven and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to praise you, O God, creator of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image to love and serve you and to live in peace with your creation. When we rebelled against you, you did not abandon us, but sent prophets to call us back to your way. Then in the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to redeem us and heal our brokenness.

Therefore we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever praise your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth of full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth of full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, your Son. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed sinners, and proclaimed good news to the poor. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won for us victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he reigns with you in glory and will come again to make all things new.

On the night before he met with death, Jesus came to the table with those he loved. He took bread and praised you, God of all creation. He broke the bread among his disciples and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you.

When the supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you, God of all creation. He passed the cup among his disciples and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering the risen Christ, we take from your creation this bread and wine as we live for the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer you now the sacrifice of our lives, for great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast, united in

ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

In union with your Church in heaven and on earth, we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose in us and in all the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake. When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood Christ?

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **PRAYER AFTER SUPPER**

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

**\*HYMN #686**

**God of Our Life**

# God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.  
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.  
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.  
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.  
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION #742**

# 742 We Will Walk with God

*Sizohamba naye*



We will walk with God, my broth-ers; we will walk with God.  
*Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, too too too, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.*



We will walk with God, my sis-ters; we will walk with God.  
*Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, too too too, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.*



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.  
*Ngom-hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.*



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.  
*Ngom-hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.*

THE POSTLUDE